



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.3447 | FAX (517) 373.5849  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/)

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Contact: Amanda Price  
517-373-3447

## Birkholz Hears Testimony on Chemical Spill

### Travels state to learn about residents concerns

LANSING—State Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp) traveled to St. Clair this week to hear testimony from residents concerning notification of chemical spills in the St. Clair River.

“I’m very interested in going around the state to hear what the residents want done,” said Birkholz. “It makes it more convenient to hear issues and creates an open, accessible government.”

As Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committee, Birkholz listened to residents and environmental officials testify on the need for a “real-time computer monitoring system” to alert authorities and residents when a chemical spill has occurred. The current system relies on voluntary human reporting which does not always occur.

“It’s important for real-time monitoring to notify persons that come in contact with the chemicals that they should see a physician for observation,” said Birkholz. “We need to learn from this and move forward.”

Testimony was also heard on the need for timely notification to protect the health and safety of residents who drink and play in the river water.